

REMARKS

The Office Action dated November 17, 2005 has been carefully considered. Claim 1 is pending in the present application. Claims 90-101 have been added. Support for claims 90-101 can be found in the originally-filed specification. For example, support for claim 90 can be found at page 7, lines 5-8; support for claim 91 can be found at page 7, lines 26-29; support for claims 92-94 can be found at page 6, lines 24-26; support for claim 95 can be found at page 9, lines 27-28; support for claim 96 can be found at page 8, line 9; support for claim 97 can be found at page 9, lines 1-9; support for claim 98-99 can be found at page 13, lines 29-31; support for claim 100 can be found at page 4, line 3; and support for claim 101 can be found at page 5, lines 16-17. No new matter has been introduced.

Reconsideration of the present application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. DOUBLE PATENTING REJECTION

Claim 1 was rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obvious-type double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over claims 1-18 of United States Patent No. 6,379,379 ("the '379 patent").

To overcome this rejection, Applicants file concurrently herewith a Terminal Disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.321(c). The '379 patent is related to the instant application, as the instant application is a continuation of the '379 patent. Furthermore, the '379 patent and the instant application are commonly owned by Scimed Life Systems, Inc. Therefore, Applicants submit that this rejection should be withdrawn.

II. NEW CLAIMS

New claims 90-101 depend on claim 1 and, thus, are also believed to be patentable.

III. CONCLUSION

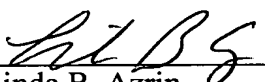
In light of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that the rejection has been overcome and that the present application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner not agree with Applicant's position, then a personal or telephonic interview is respectfully requested to discuss any remaining issues and expedite the eventual allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures